

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO AND AWACS

REF: USNATO 2022

1. CONCUR WITH VIEW THAT BOTH A NATO MINIMUM MILITARY REQUIREMENT AND AN AGREED COMMON FUNDING METHOD WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A NATO DECISION ON AWACS CAN BE REACHED, AND THAT NATO AWACS FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CONCURRENTLY WITH DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED REQUIRED OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (ROC).

2. NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE FOR
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AWACS, NOR CAN THEY BE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE

FUTURE, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE A MAJOR PORTION OF THE INFRA-STRUCTURE BUDGET COULD BE REQUIRED FOR THIS ONE SYSTEM. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY SPECIAL ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO INFRASTRUCTURE EARMARKED FOR AEW WOULD IMPAIR FUNDING OF OTHER HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS DURING 1975-1979 TIME FRAME. WE MAY BE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER THIS POSITION AFTER AGREEMENT ON THE NEW FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PERIOD HAS BEEN REACHED.

3. WE FAVOR COMMON FUNDING THRU A COOPERATIVELY FUNDED CONSORTIUM FINANCED BY ALL NATO ALLIES BECAUSE THIS IS A PROGRAM OF COMMON INTEREST.

4. THE FOLLOWING IS A CLARIFICATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US NATIONAL AWACS AND A NATO AEW SYSTEM:

A. THE FIVE YEAR DEFENSE PLAN PROVIDES BUDGETING FOR 34 AWACS AIRCRAFT; HOWEVER, THE FY 75 BUDGET REQUEST, IF APPROVED BY CONGRESS, PROVIDES FUNDS FOR ONLY 12 AIRCRAFT. IN ANY EVENT, UNDER HIGH DEFCON CONDITIONS AWACS RESOURCES CANNOT SIMULTANEOUSLY SATISFY BOTH NORAD AND SACEUR REQUIREMENTS. THE OCTOBER 1973 BRIEFING TO NATO RECOMMENDED A TOTAL OF 12 AWACS AIRCRAFT FOR THE AFCEA AREA ALONE. THEREFORE, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT AN EVEN LARGER FORCE OF NATO AWACS DEDICATED TO SACEUR WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO MEET TOTAL ACE REQUIREMENTS.

B. SINCE THE US GOVERNMENT OFFERED AN AWACS NATO VARIANT CONFIGURATION TO NATO (OCTOBER 1973), SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE CAUSED CHANGES IN THE ESTIMATED COSTS (E.G., CHANGE IN PRODUCTION QUANTITY OF USAF BUY FROM 42 TO 34 AIRCRAFT, CHANGE IN PRODUCTION RATE FROM TWO TO ONE AIRCRAFT PER MONTH, THREE ANNUAL BUYS VERSUS ONE SINGLE PROCUREMENT, CHANGES IN THE CONFIGURATION FROM US-CONCEIVED NATO VARIANT TO A NATO-CONCEIVED VARIANT, AND ADDITION OF THE USAF AWACS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM) WHICH REQUIRE RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONTRACT. PRODUCTION APPROVAL UNDER THE RENEGOTIATED CONTRACT

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IS SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND SECDEF APPROVAL WHICH IS ANTICIPATED LATE IN CY 1974. THE COSTS ORIGINALLY QUOTED (OCTOBER 1973) HAVE CHANGED AND THE NAFAG SPECIAL TASK GROUP WILL PROVIDE NATO WITH A REVISED COST ESTIMATE FOR THE RECOMMENDED CONFIGURATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND THE AGREED SCHEDULE.

5. THE MATTER OF COMMON FUNDING OF NATO AWACS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT A HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL (IN OUR JUDGMENT, AT CNAD OR HIGHER LEVELS), TO PROVIDE REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT NATIONAL POSITIONS STATED (ALBEIT PRELIMINARY) WILL BE HONORED IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THERE MAY BE A REQUIREMENT FOR ANOTHER AWACS BRIEFING; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE GENERAL INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS ON THIS ALREADY WELL-BRIEFED SUBJECT ARE NO LONGER OF INTEREST TO THE EUROPEAN AUDIENCE. THE STG CHAIRMAN WILL MEET WITH COLONEL JENKS OF USMISSION NATO TO AGREE ON SUBJECT MATTER FOR A FUTURE BRIEFING.

7. IF NATO ELECTS TO PURSUE A COOPERATIVE AWACS PROGRAM WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUBSTANTIAL EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION. THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION ON THE USAF AWACS PROGRAM IS BEING ANALYZED BY THE AWACS SPECIAL TASK GROUP. PROPOSALS FROM THE GROUP WILL GUIDE THE US RESPONSE IN THIS AREA. KISSINGER

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